# Data Skimmers in Motor Fuel Dispensers



Arizona Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures Services Division September 26, 2017

#### What are skimmers?

- > They are illegal devices that 'capture' customer card info
- Connected to the credit card readers
- Installed inside fuel dispensers, ATMs, point of sale
- Their presence is increasing
- Their design and technology is changing

It only takes 7 to 8 seconds for a criminal to install a skimmer in a fuel dispenser!!!



## What do criminals do with the skimmer data?

- Re-encode card numbers on magnetic stripe cards
- Purchase gift cards and other merchandise
- > Sell data on "dark web" for other criminal use
- Proceeds used to fund other criminal activities





#### What harm is caused?

- Skimmers cause fraud, which is costly to...
  - Consumers
  - Businesses
  - > Financial institutions
- The equipment needed to make and install a skimmer is relatively inexpensive and easy to obtain



CREDIT CARD SKIMMER FOR SALE GAS PUMP

skimmermanufacture.net

## Who should be concerned about skimmers?

- Business owners accepting credit cards
- Law enforcement
  - State, county, and local police
  - United States Secret Service
  - > FBI



- Consumers
  - Review statements for fraudulent purchases
  - Ask retailers what security measures they have in place
  - Let retailers know if they see something suspicious
- Financial institutions

## How is Weights and Measures involved?

- We license and inspect fuel dispensers
  - Actively checking for skimmers for over 10 years
  - Educate fuel retailers regarding inspections and security measures
  - State "clearinghouse" for tracking fuel station skimming activities
  - Respond and investigate reports of potential skimming activity
- License Registered Service Representatives (dispenser service technicians)
  - New rule requires service technicians to report the discovery of skimmers

## Together we can combat this costly crime!

#### Arizona data – Fueling



#### Estimated costs in Arizona

Year	# Skimmers	Estimated Cost	High Cost
2011	8	\$882,400	\$44,120,000
2012	4	\$441,200	\$22,060,000
2013	12	\$1,323,600	\$66,180,000
2014	6	\$661,800	\$33,090,000
2015	11	\$1,213,300	\$60,665,000
2016	88	\$9,706,400	\$485,320,000

#### **Estimated Losses:**

Direct Loss Per Victim = \$1,003

Indirect Loss Per Victim = \$100

Low Cost = 100 Victims per Skimmer

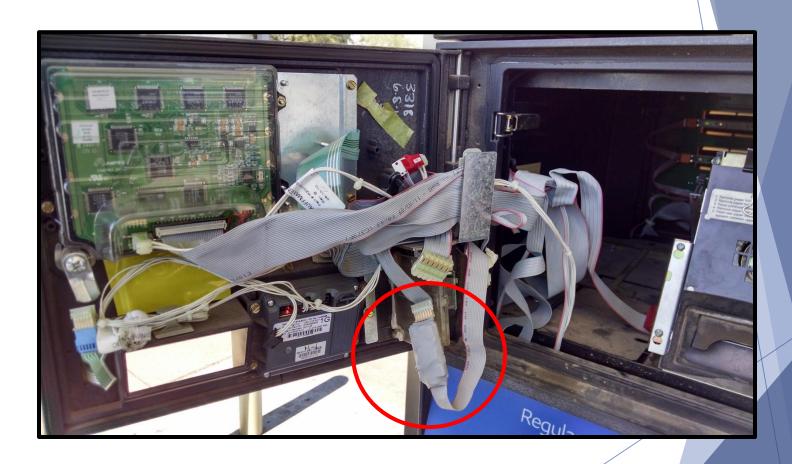
High Cost = 5,000 Victims per Skimmer

Estimates from "Estimating Annual Losses From Payment Card Skimming Fraud in Florida," Sergio Alvarez, Office of Policy and Budget, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, January 2016

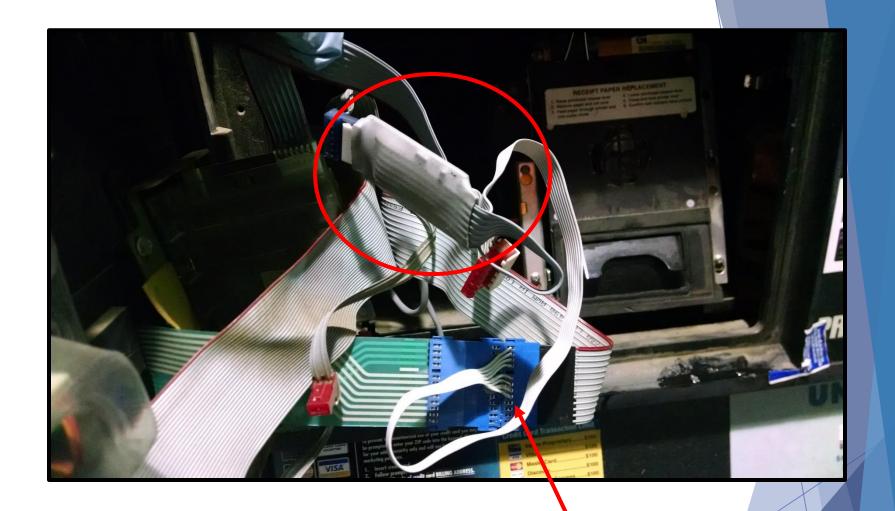
### About dispenser skimmers...

- Installed internally in the dispenser
- Attached to the card reader (some directly attached)
- Most are attached to wiring
- Some attached to keypad to capture PIN
- Some must be retrieved to get the card data
- Others are Bluetooth-enabled and do not need to be retrieved from the dispenser
- SMS-enabled skimmers

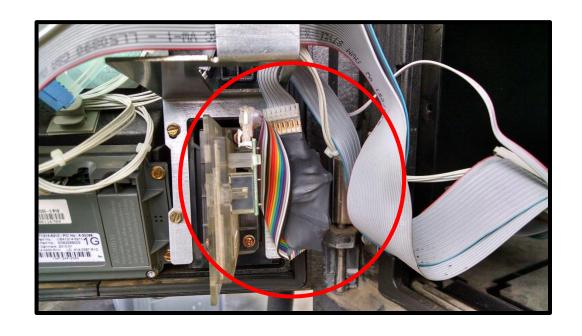
# Various skimmers recovered in Arizona...



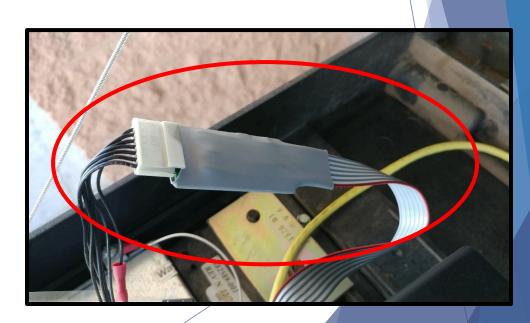
Skimmer plugged in-line w/ card reader



This skimmer is also connected to the PIN keypad



Skimmers come in many shapes, sizes, and colors



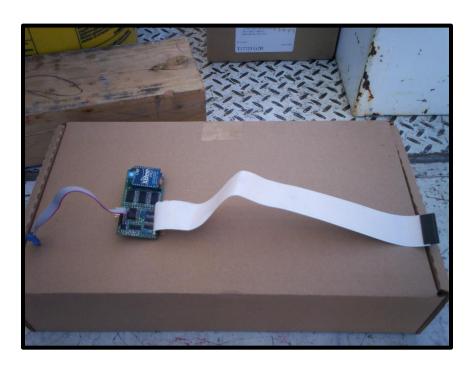
Criminals will try to conceal skimmers by making them blend in with existing equipment...

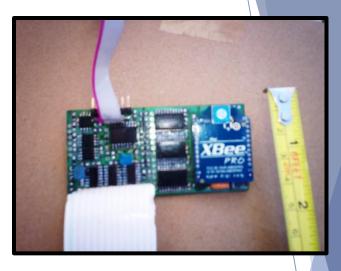


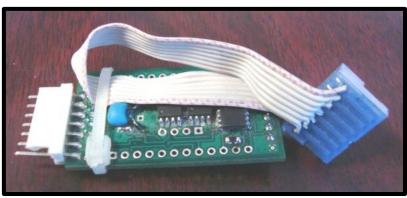
... or even try to hide them deep inside the dispenser.

Can you find the skimmer?

### Various "plug-in" skimmers

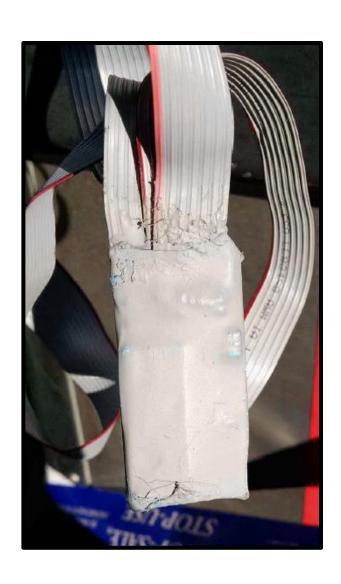




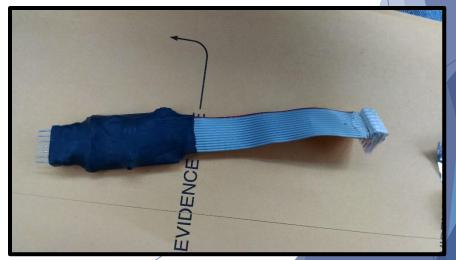




## More "plug-in" skimmers

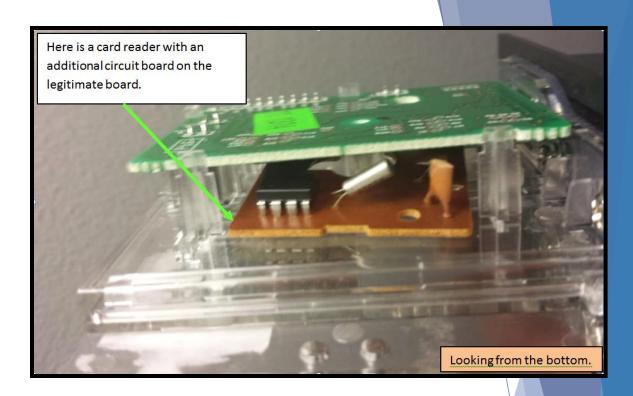


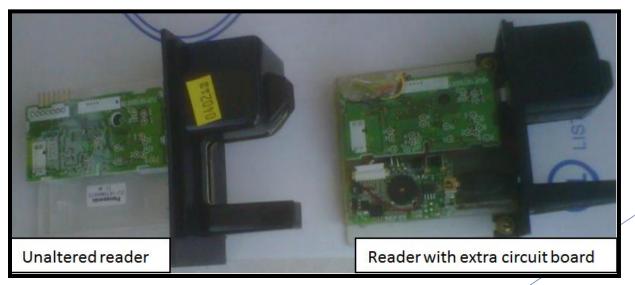




FBI bulletin on skimmer attached directly to card reader (2015)...

In this case, the criminal removes the entire card reader and installs one with a skimmer attached.

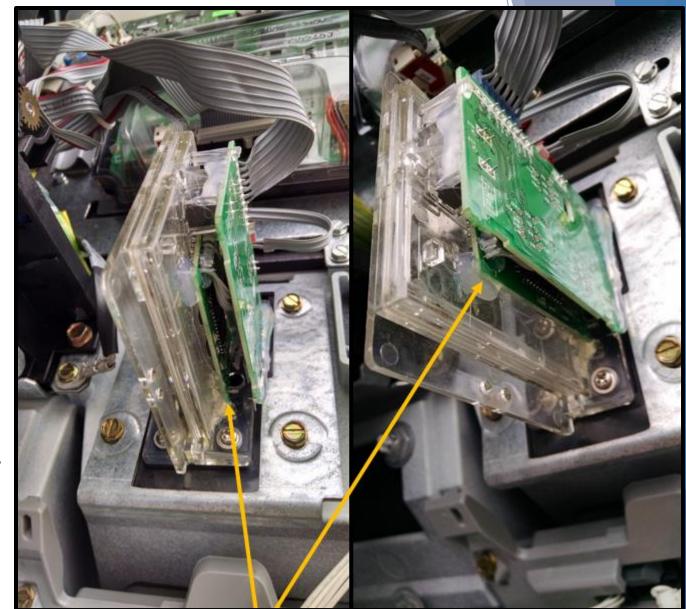




Here is one that was found in Arizona in 2016.

Note the clear "globs" of silicone attaching skimmer to card reader.

This device was suspected to have Bluetooth capability.



### Overlay skimmers

Overlays slide over the existing area where a consumer would insert their credit or debit card. Here is one that was discovered on an ATM...





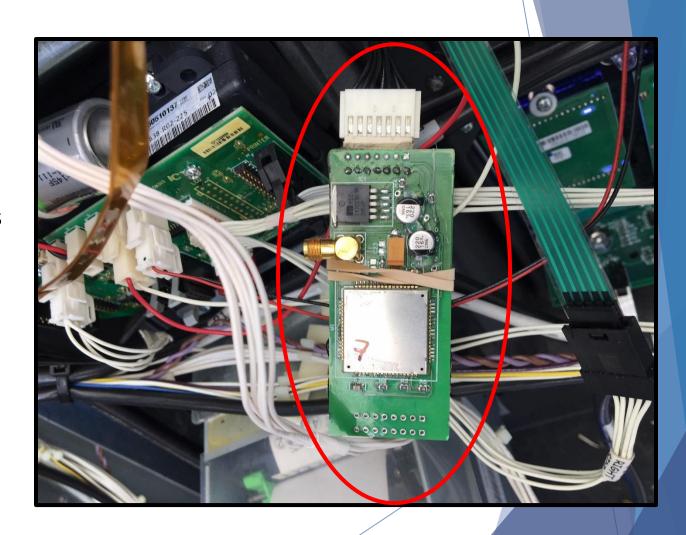
CAN YOU TELL THE DIFFERENCE? Hint: The 'skimmer' is on the right.

#### SMS skimmers

The newest type of skimmer.

These skimmers utilize cellular phone components to send copied credit card data via SMS text message.

This skimmer was located in Florida earlier this year.



## What to do if you find a skimmer...

- We ask that employees follow our "skimmer procedure." This was developed in conjunction with Law Enforcement and has proven to be highly effective.
- If a skimmer is found, do the following:
  - DO NOT TOUCH the suspect device... doing so may disturb physical evidence left on the device (fingerprints, hair, etc.)
  - Bag/place the pump out of service
  - Take "quick" photos of the device as it was found
  - Immediately upon discovery,
    - Contact the Department of Agriculture, Weights & Measures Services Division;
    - Your Maintenance and Loss Prevention divisions;
    - Your local police department
- Print out the last receipt from the pump where the device was discovered
- Save all video surveillance
- > Again, **DO NOT TOUCH** the suspect device

#### Efforts in Arizona

- Inspect for skimmers during all fueling device, fuel quality, and vapor recovery inspections
- Skimmer form
  - Special form completed when a skimmer is found
  - Designed with input from law enforcement and financial institutions to contain important information (pump location, device construction, Bluetooth capability, security measures, etc.)

#### Efforts in Arizona, cont.

- "Skimmer Alert" sent via e-mail when a skimmer is found
  - Distribution list includes law enforcement, financial institutions, major fuel retailers, fuel associations
  - Includes location, skimmer information form, pictures
  - Also distributed to IAFCI members (International Association of Financial Crimes Investigators)
- Summary of inspection sent to location where skimmer was discovered
  - Includes recommendations on regular inspection practices and security efforts

#### Efforts in Arizona, cont.

- Radius inspections when a skimmer is found
- Inspector evidence collection training
- Statewide inspection for skimmers
- Post locations on website, increased media
- > AZPOST video for law enforcement training

#### Efforts in Arizona, cont.

- Stakeholder meetings, open communication with law enforcement, financial institutions, retailers
- Senate Bill 1294 passed May 2016
  - Increased penalties for skimmer crimes
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> degree trespass, 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burglary for unauthorized access to devices used for commercial transactions that accepting electronic or physical currency
    - Unlawful possession and use of scanning devices from class 6 felony to class 4 felony

### Are skimmers going away?

\*\*Chip card liability shift postponed at gas stations from October 1, 2017 to October 1, 2020

TODAY'S TOP STORIES

### Crooks are selling a skimmer that works on all chip card readers



Credit: Zach Miners

Think that your new EMV-compliant chip-reading point of sale terminal will keep crooks from stealing your customer credit card info?





## What skimming leads to...



#### Questions?

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Report a skimmer: <a href="mailto:dwm@azda.gov">dwm@azda.gov</a>, 602-542-4373

